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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,299	09/26/2001	Guy Andrew Vaz	B-3834DIV of DIV	5641

7590 02/03/2004

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EXAMINER

PIERCE, JEREMY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1771

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/965,299	VAZ, GUY ANDREW <i>AB</i>
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeremy R. Pierce	1771

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 29 December 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. Other: _____.

Elizabeth M. Cole
ELIZABETH M. COLE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant argues there is no evidence or suggestion that Dolowy's product looks the same, similar, or identical to the claimed product. However, Applicant's claim 85 recites a woven or chopped graphite material that is impregnated with polymer containing an alloy powder. The resulting product of this claim would comprise (1) woven or chopped graphite, (2) polymer, and (3) metal powder. Dolowy discloses the chopped graphite, polymer, and metal powder in combination as well (column 2, lines 25-44). The Examiner has met the initial burden of showing the products to be identical. The burden is now upon Applicant to prove the claimed product is unobviously different from the prior art. Applicant argues that the unobvious difference exists because the present application does not require uniform physical properties. However, such a feature is not found in the claims. Applicant argues that a product-by-process claim will never be patentable under Examiner's logic. However, while the Patent Office bears a lesser burden of showing obviousness with a product-by-process claim, Applicant may overcome the Examiner's assertion of similarity by producing evidence establishing an unobvious difference between the claimed product and the prior art product. The patentability of a product does not depend upon its method of production.